

First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution & Health
Draft Points for Jane Nishida for OITA-OAR Coordination Meeting, February 21, 2019

- The World Health Organization (WHO) hosted the First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health from October 30 – November 1, 2018.
- The conference was very well attended -- nearly 900 participants from a wide range of governmental and non-governmental organizations (many more tried to register).
- The conference highlighted the link between air pollution and health, noting that air pollution is responsible for an estimated 7 million premature deaths annually and is the second leading risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). We had been working through HHS to make this linkage for some time now.
- Other prominent topics included air monitoring, household air pollution, and children's health.
- As you know, I led USG participation. The USG participants included others from EPA (Amanda Curry-Brown, Marianne Bailey, John Mitchell, and Ken Davidson), State and HHS attaches from US Consulate Geneva, USAID, and NIH.
- At the high-level Roundtable segment of the conference, I highlighted the U.S. experience with air quality management, emphasized the false dichotomy between clean air and economic growth, and highlighted U.S. advocacy in promoting clean air domestically and internationally. I also underscored U.S. commitments to support clean air efforts, including the expansion of the EPA's Megacities partnerships and the State Department's Embassy Air Quality Monitoring Program.
- USG participants were successful in getting WHO to provide verbal and written statements that the conference summary was a non-negotiated, non-decisional WHO summary.